

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SNM-02 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05

SSO-00 /037 W

----- 005234

O R 170515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7027

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, PFOR, BC, RH, SA

SUBJECT: AMCITS CONVICTED ON WEAPONS CHARGE

REF: A) GABORONE 1245 B) GABORONE 1239

DEPARTMENT PASS FBI; PRETORIA FOR RSO

1. AMCITS JOSEPH THOMAS BELISARIO AND CRAIG C. ACHESON PLEADED GUILTY ON SEPTEMBER 16 BEFORE CHIEF MAGISTRATE TO CHARGE OF UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION AND WERE SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT. EMBOFF WAS PRESENT DURING ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS.

2. ACHESON WAS TRIED FIRST IN SEPARATE TRIAL AND CHOSE NOT TO BE REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEY. CHIEF MAGISTRATE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT AND THEREFORE DID NOT RAISE MERCENARY ISSUE (REF A). HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ACHESON'S PROTESTATIONS ABOUT IGNORANCE OF THE LAW AND CLAIM THAT "STAR" HANDGUN WAS FOR SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST ANIMALS. MAGISTRATE ALSO ASKED ACHESON SEVERAL TIMES WHY HE HAD COME TO BOTSWANA, OBVIOUSLY NOT BELIEVING THAT HE HAD COME ONLY FOR TOURISM. AFTER CONVICTION ON THE WEAPONS CHARGE, COURT WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN TRYING ACHESON ON DRUG POSSESSION CHARGE WHEN ACHESON DECIDED HE WANTED ATTORNEY. EMBOFF ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT ATTORNEY CHOSEN BY
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ACHESON, WHOSE TRIALS ON DRUG CHARGES, POSSESSION OF HOUSE-

BREAKING IMPLEMENT WILL BE HELD MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 17. TRIAL WILL, OR COURSE, BE POSTPONED IF ATTORNEY CANNOT BE OBTAINED.

3. BELISARIO ALSO CHOSE NOT TO HAVE ATTORNEY. HE PLEADED GUILTY AND RECEIVED SIX- MONTH SENTENCE. HE WAS MORE TACITURN DURING TRIAL AND ANSWERED MOST QUESTIONS WITH SIMPLE YES OR NO. BELISIARO WAS EQUALLY SHAKEN BY SENTENCE AND WILL ALSO RETAIN ATTORNEY CHOSEN BY ACHESON. HIS TRIAL FOR DRUG POSSESSION WILL ALSO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 17.

4. IN ADDITION TO ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE OBTAINING ATTORNEY, DEFENDANTS ASKED EMBOFF TO CONTACT FRIENDS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO OBTAIN TRANSFER OF BELISARIO'S FUNDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO LOCAL BARCLAY'S BANK. EMBOFF WILL REQUEST ATTORNEY TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH BELISARIO AND ACHESON IN THIS. HOWEVER, INFORMATION MIGHT BE INTERSTING TO INFO ADDRESSEES. BELISARIO ASKED THAT DICK GRASSER IN PRETORIA(TELEPHONE 627-394) BE CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO TRANSFER "ALL FUNDS FROM VARIOUS BANK ACCOUNTS" INTO BELISARIO'S JOHANNESBURG BARCLARY'S ACCOUNT. BELISARIO REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT "ALL" FUNDS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED.

5. ACHESON ASKED THAT "DAVE" BE CONTACTED THROUGH DICK GRASSER. "DAVE" IS TO CONTACT THE "THREE ENGLISH GIRLS" TO TELL THEM THAT "THERE MAY BE SOME DELAY". ACHESON THEN GAVE EMBOFF ADDRESS OF ONE THE "ENGLISH GIRLS" WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

MS. LINDSEY DYER
APARTMENT 702
CAMELOT
39 ABEL ROAD
CORNER OF TUDHOPE AVENUE
BEREA, JOHANNESBURG, RSA

SHE IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "FRIENDS OF THE LION ASSOCIATION",FOURTH FLOOR UNION CASTLE BUILDING, LOVEDAY STREET JOHANNESUBRG.

6. BOTSWANA CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (CID) OFFICER TELEPHONED EMBASSY AT 1315 TO INFORM EMBOFF THAT TRIAL WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BEGIN IN ONE HOUR. LATER AT TRIAL, EMBOFF ASKED WHY TRIAL BEING HELD SO SUDDENLY. HE RESPONDED THAT ORDERS HAD COME DOWN FROM "ON HIGH" TO COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS IMMEDIATELY AS DEFENDENTS ARE CITIZENS OF A "FRIENDLY POWER". WHEN PRESSED ABOUT WHO "ON HIGH" WAS, HE STATED THAT ORDERS CAME FROM COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES ORDERS CAME FROM CONSIDERABLY HIGHER, PROBABALY FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT. CID OFFICER, WHO HAS APPARENTLY GOTTEN

MOST OF THE INFORMATION HE WANTS FROM DETAINEES, WAS CLEARLY SURPRISED AT SEVERITY OF SENTENCE. HE EXPECTED HEAVY FINE TO BE ELEVIED AND DEFENDANTS TO BE SENT OUT OF BOTSWANA AFTER PAYMENT OF FINES. HE NOW PLANS TO USE SENTENCES AS LEVER TO OBTAIN MORE COMPLETE COOPERATION (NAMES OF CONTACTS, ETC.).

7. CID OFFICER ALSO PRESENTED FORMAL GOB REQUEST TO BE PASSED TO FBI FOR INFORMATION ON BELISARIO AND ACHESON. ONLY NEW FACT NOT REPORTED REFTELS IS THAT ACHESON CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN SECURITY OFFICER AT NUCLEAR STATION, NINE MILE POINT, NEW YORK UNTIL JULY, 1975.

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Message Attributes

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